

Multiplied Generosity

Sheridan Voysey



*See that you also excel in this grace of giving. **2 Corinthians 8:7***

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:1–9

Bible in a Year: Lamentations 1–2; Hebrews 10:1–18

Cheryl was in for a surprise as she pulled up to deliver her next pizza. Expecting to arrive at a home, she instead found herself outside a church. Cheryl confusedly carried the pepperoni pizza inside, where she was met by the pastor.

“Is it fair to say life hasn’t been easy for you?” the pastor asked her. Cheryl agreed it hadn’t. With that, he brought out two offering plates that church members had filled with money. The pastor then poured over \$750 into Cheryl’s delivery bag as a tip! Unbeknownst to Cheryl, the pastor had asked the pizza shop to send their most financially strapped driver over. Cheryl was stunned. She could now pay some bills.

When the first Christians in Jerusalem faced poverty, it was a church that rushed to their aid. Though in need themselves, the Macedonian Christians gave sacrificially, considering it a privilege to do so (2 Cor. 8:1–4). Paul cited their generosity as an example for the Corinthians, and us, to follow. When we use our plenty to supply another’s need, we reflect Jesus, who gave away His riches to meet our own spiritual poverty (v. 9).

Cheryl told all her customers about the church’s kindness that day, and, following its example, donated the rest of the day’s tips to others in need. An act of generosity multiplied. And Christ was glorified.

Lord, You meet our needs in surprising ways sometimes. Use us to do that for others as well.

Our generosity meets needs and glorifies Jesus.

Great Love

Alyson Kieda



*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! **1 John 3:1***

Read: 1 John 3:1–8

Bible in a Year: Lamentations 3–5; Hebrews 10:19–39

Recently, we took our twenty-two-month-old granddaughter, Moriah, overnight for the first time without her older brothers. We lavished lots of loving, undivided attention on her, and had fun doing the things she likes to do. The next day after dropping her off, we said our goodbyes and headed out the door. As we did, without a word Moriah grabbed her overnight bag (still sitting by the door) and began following us.

The picture is etched in my memory: Moriah in her diaper and mismatched sandals ready to depart with Grandma and Grandpa again. Every time I think of it, I smile. She was eager to go with us, ready for more individualized time.

Although she is as yet unable to vocalize it, our granddaughter feels loved and valued. In a small way, our love for Moriah is a picture of the love God has for us, His children. “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1).

When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we become His children and begin to understand the lavish love He bestowed on us by dying for us (v. 16). Our desire becomes to please Him in what we say and do (v. 6)—and to love Him, eager to spend time with Him.

Dear Lord, thank You for loving us so much that You died for us and rose again that we might have eternal life with You. Help us to be examples of Your love to all we meet.

Share this prayer from [Facebook.com/ourdailybread](https://www.facebook.com/ourdailybread).

How deep is the Father's love for us!

How Much More!

David C. McCasland



*If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! **Luke 11:13***

Read: [Luke 11:5–13](#)

Bible in a Year: [Ezekiel 1–2](#); [Hebrews 11:1–19](#)

In October 1915, during World War I, Oswald Chambers arrived at Zeitoun Camp, a military training center near Cairo, Egypt, to serve as a YMCA chaplain to British Commonwealth soldiers. When he announced a weeknight religious service, 400 men packed the large YMCA hut to hear Chambers's talk titled, "What Is the Good of Prayer?" Later, when he spoke individually with men who were trying to find God in the midst of war, Oswald often quoted Luke 11:13, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The free gift of God through His Son, Jesus, is forgiveness, hope, and His living presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit. "For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened" (v. 10).

On November 15, 1917, Oswald Chambers died unexpectedly from a ruptured appendix. To honor him, a soldier led to faith in Christ by Oswald purchased a marble carving of a Bible with the message of Luke 11:13 on its open page and placed it beside his grave: "How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" This amazing gift from God is available to each of us today.

Father, You are the giver of all good gifts. We thank You for the great gift of the Holy Spirit who lives in us and guides us in Your truth today.

Learn more about the legacy of Oswald Chambers at utmost.org.

God's gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives is available to each of us today.

In His Presence



Harold Myra

*Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, Lord. **Psalm 89:15***

Read: Psalm 89:1–17

Bible in a Year: Ezekiel 3–4; Hebrews 11:20–40

The seventeenth-century monk Brother Lawrence, before a day's work as cook in his community, would pray, "O my God . . . grant me your grace to stay in your presence. Help me in my labors. Possess all my affections." As he worked, he kept talking to God, listening for His leading and dedicating his work to Him. Even when he was busiest, he would use intervals of relative calm to ask for His grace. No matter what was happening, he sought for and found a sense of his Maker's love.

As Psalm 89 confesses, the fitting response to the Creator of all who rules the oceans and is worshiped by hosts of angels is to lift up our lives—our whole lives to Him. When we understand the beauty of who God is we "hear the joyful call to worship"—whenever and wherever we are, "all day long" (vv. 15–16 nlt).

Whether it's standing in store or airport lines, or waiting on hold minute after minute, our lives are full of moments like these, times when we could get annoyed. Or these can be times when we catch our breath and see each of these pauses as an opportunity to learn to "walk in the light of [God's] presence" (v. 15).

The "wasted" moments of our lives, when we wait or lay ill or wonder what to do next, are all possible pauses to consider our lives in the light of His presence. guest writer

Adapted from a book of Brother Lawrence's work by Harold Myra. See dhp.org/practice.

Every moment can be lived in God's presence.

Serve and Be Served

Cindy Hess Kasper



You were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. **Philippians 4:10**

Read: **Philippians 4:10–19**

Bible in a Year: **Ezekiel 5–7; Hebrews 12**

Marilyn had been ill for many weeks, and many people had encouraged her through this difficult time. *How will I ever repay all their kindnesses?* she worried. Then one day she read the words of a written prayer: “Pray that [others] will develop humility, allowing them not only to serve, but also to be served.” Marilyn suddenly realized there was no need to balance any scale, but just to be thankful and allow others to experience the joy of serving.

In Philippians 4, the apostle Paul expressed his gratitude for all those who shared “in [his] troubles” (v. 14). He depended on people to support him as he preached and taught the gospel. He understood that the gifts provided for him when he was in need were simply an extension of people’s love for God: “[Your gifts] are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God” (v. 18).

It may not be easy to be the one on the receiving end—especially if you’ve usually been the first one to help other people. But with humility, we can allow God to gently care for us by a variety of means when we need help.

Paul wrote, “My God will meet all your needs” (v. 19). It was something he had learned during a life of trials. God is faithful and His provision for us has no limits.

Dear Lord, thank You for caring for us through Your people. May we graciously give and receive help.

Receive love. Give love. Repeat.
